UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7344

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF AFGHANISTAN

IPF: (1992-96) $70 039 000

(AFG/92/007) - Formulation of a Rehabilitation Strategy for Afghanistan

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	12 August 1992	
Expected duration:	Six months	
Lead Government Authority:	Ministry of Planning	
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS	
Implementing Agents:	UNDP and other UN agencies	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 093 000	Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 093 000	
Administrative and Operational Support Services (AOS):	$ 96 800	Agency: UNDP/OPS

Project background

As Afghanistan slowly emerges from the devastation of a 14-year war and over 5 million refugees begin the arduous return to their homeland, the overwhelming need for human, economic and physical rehabilitation is clearly evident. Practically all areas of Afghanistan have been laid waste by a particularly destructive 14-year war. The social fabric and economic base have been devastated. The financial, institutional and physical infrastructure is almost totally paralyzed or destroyed. Health, education and other services are virtually inoperative. Unemployment, poverty, malnutrition, deprivation and disease afflict most of the 16.6 million population, of whom an estimated 50 per cent are either displaced, homeless or destitute in a country which experiences an extremely harsh winter likely to exact a heavy toll amongst the millions in need of urgent humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance.

The political situation in Afghanistan has evolved rapidly since April 1992 when Afghanistan's fallen Government ceded power to a Mujahideen Interim Council headed by a president-elect. The ruling council governed for a transitional two months when a new president-elect came into power for a four-month term. During the remaining 18 months of the interim period, elections are planned leading to the subsequent establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the majority of Afghan people. The newly-established Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the new provincial councils based in the main cities are trying to cope with the problems of day to day governance, the influx of returnees and the millions of mines scattered in many parts of the country.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

The urgent need for a rehabilitation strategy has been further emphasized by the extraordinary, spontaneous return of refugees from border camps in Pakistan and Iran. The daily rate of return of refugees recorded by UNHCR already has reached 12,000 persons so that, by the end of the year, it is expected that over 2 million refugees will have returned to Afghanistan. In addition, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and demobilized combatants will need to be resettled. It is hoped that donor community response to the Consolidated Appeal by the Secretary-General for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, launched in June 1992, will meet immediate needs. But only large-scale international intervention leading to rehabilitation and development of the country can hope to avoid serious exacerbation of the already disastrous condition.

Having established a record of long and active experience in Afghanistan, it is evident that, in the immediate future, the United Nations system is expected by other multi-laterals, bilaterals and NGOs, to provide neutral and sound technical guidance on viable, high priority, rehabilitation activities. Led and sponsored by UNDP, the strategy will cover key sectors and encompass the technical expertise and experience of the IMF, World Bank, ADB, UN specialized agencies, and NGOs. Such a strategy will develop an overall framework of donor and UN system assistance for the the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Description of project

The project provides for the formulation of a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy based upon a needs assessment survey and identification of priorities through technical appraisal in consultation with the Government and provincial or local authorities. The strategy will include a portfolio of viable, sustainable projects identified for funding by potential donors. To be in place by the end of this year, the strategy will provide a framework to guide implementation of rehabilitation activities over the two-year period 1993/94.

Project activities will include: (a) conducting a comprehensive review and assessment of the present status, needs, problems and priorities to be addressed in each of the major economic, social and infrastructure sectors covering economic management, water and irrigation, transport/communications/roads, agriculture, housing, health, education, industry, human resources development, mine clearance and cross-cutting issues of gender, drug control, and NGO participation; (b) indicating priorities in both sectoral and regional aspects; (c) analyzing relevant human resources, deployment, utilization and training needs; (d) discharing a clear statement of implications in terms of special issues such as mine hazards, food security, displaced persons, disabled and disadvantaged groups, the role of women, drugs and environment; (e) clarifying inter-sectoral considerations and linkages brought out between repatriation and development phases; (f) supporting each sectoral analysis by project profiles for activities to address perceived needs and priorities; and (g) identifying where appropriate, critical quick impact projects for urgent implementation together with a broad estimate of costs.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 59 work-months for a director/team leader, an executive officer and two secretaries, 30 work-months of international experts, five work-months of national consultants; a subcontract to charter a light aircraft for three work-months; equipment and miscellaneous costs.

The World Bank, IMF, ADB and FAO have each identified consultants and allocated funds from their own resources to meet their respective costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	608 000
Sub-contracts	400 000
Equipment	30 000
Miscellaneous	55 000
Total	1 093 000